ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1920.

TO THE SHOEBURYNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report for the year 1920.

The estimated population of the District is 5250. The occupations are work on the War Department Works, on the Midland Railway, Navigation, Brickmaking and Agriculture.

The District is situated on the North side of the Thames estuary, being bounded on the East and South by the sea, on the North by the Rochford rural district, and on the West by the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. It has an extent of about 1039 acres. It is roughly quadrilateral in shape, and consists of the town proper, (which is divided into an Eastern and Western part) and the War Department property.

WATER SUPPLY.

This has been very satisfactory, being sufficient in quantity and excellent in quality. The supply is constant, and there is no contamination.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of rivers and streams in the District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The same system is still in operation. The sewerage is discharged unchanged into the sea at ebb tide.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE (Continued)

The new plans for the treatment and disposal of the sewage of Shoeburyness and Great Wakering are still being discussed, the Military Authorities not having yet decided as to their share in those schemes.

All closets in the drainage area have flushing cisterns. The number of pail or tub closets is nineteen. There are no privies with open middens, and those with closed middens number five.

SCAVENGING.

This is satisfactorily performed twice weekly by the Council 's workmen, the refuse is disposed of at the brick-making works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

There have been 1289 inspections during the year, and 190 Statutory Notices served . All have been complied with.

SCHOOLS.

The condition of the Schools as regards sanitation is good. The name and address of any suspected case of infectious disease in the Schools is reported at once to the M.O.H. the child is sent home, and visited by one of the Medical Practitioners.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The milk has been of good quality. The cowsheds and bakehouses have been frequently inspected, and their sanitary condition is excellent.

There are no slaughterhouses in the District, practically all the meat is imported.

and

FOOD SUPPLY (Continued)

There is no public abatoir. No carcases have been condemned for tuberculosis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the beginning of the year there was an epidemic of Whooping Cough, and at the close Chicken-pox and Scarlet Fever which continued into 1921. The number of cases of the latter were considerably more than have been notified for several years past. After a certain number of cases had been removed, the Rochford Isolation Hospital was filled, the remainder had to be treated at home, every precaution being taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Disinfection of the house was carried out in all cases immediately after the infected person had left, or, if not removed, as soon as the case was declared to be no longer infectious.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis were used in many cases; in suspected cases of diphtheria, antitoxin was promptly used. The eyes were not permanently damaged in the case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever or Small-Pox in the year. Beds are reserved at Nobles Green Isolation Hospital for possible cases of the latter.

61 Vaccinations were carried out in the year and 2 re-vaccinations. Military cases are not included in these figures.

Most of the tuberculous cases are kept under observation by the Tuberculous Officer, Clarence Street, Southend; of cases of Venereal disease the majority are treated at the Southend Sanatorium.

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Interpretation of Cases.

In the [illegible] of the year there were no [illegible] of [illegible] and of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Continued)

The following Infectious Diseases were notified:-

Scarlet Fever	22
Diphtheria	8
Enteric Fever	7
Erysipelas	10
Pneumonia	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
Tuberculosis of Lungs	9
Tuberculosis (other forms)	6

VITAL STATISTICS.

The deaths under one year of age were seven in number. The total number of deaths in the district was 36. There has been a very high birth rate in the year - 185 in number, 98 boys and 87 girls.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

This is now held every Thursday afternoon at the Council Chambers, the Medical Officer attending every other week.

During the year Nurse Taylor resigned her appointment, and was replaced by Nurse Sears.

There has been an improvement in the attendances during the year, 362 Mothers with 420 children, an increase of 48 Mothers and 50 children over the figures for 1919.

A special couch has been given by the Council to the Clinic. It is likely to be of great use in Maternity welfare.

A number of families have been assisted with milk at reduced rates, and free milk has been supplied in cases where the men were out of work. A voluntary agency also helps.

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HOUSING.

The general standard of housing in the District is good, none have been found unfit for habitation. No representations were made with a view to making closing orders.

There is still a shortage of houses in the District, causing some overcrowding. The number of dwelling houses of all classes is 972, of work-class dwellings 947.

The Council have commenced a scheme of building sixty houses, ten are now in course of erection.

One house, which was in a filthy condition, was cleansed, the bedding destroyed, and new bedding provided by the Council.

THE COMMON.

All the bushes have been cut down and burnt, the ground cleared of roots, and some of the ground levelled. Part of the Common was previously in a very insanitary condition.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

(sd) E.D.FOUNTAIN, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.